

ELCT NORHERN CENTRAL DIOCESE



**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP : SPECIAL PRAYER
[COVID 19 CORONA]**

05-04-2020

ORDER OF *SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICE*

1. *The intercession prayer has been prepared to ask God to remove the dreaded/ dangerous disease COVID-19 (CORONA).*
2. *The prayers should be used during the Closing Prayer at the end of the service.*
3. *Every prayer is linked to a word from the Bible. At the end of each prayer, a person leading the pray will end with "Lord in your Mercy" and the Congregation will respond "Hear our prayer."*
4. *All to sing one stanza of the special chosen Hymn, and then next prayer to follow. This trend should be followed until the end of prayer.*

PART 1

Invitation to worship

Leader: Let's begin this special service to ask the Lord to rid and remove from us the infectious disease of Corona, in the Name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amin.

All: Amin.

First Reading: Psalm 145: 1-9

Hymn: Pass me Not, O Gentle Saviour

1. Pass me not, O gentle Saviour,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.
Refrain: . . .
Saviour, Saviour,
Hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.
Refrain: . . .
2. Let me at Thy throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition,
Help my unbelief.
Refrain . . .
3. Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
Save me by Thy grace.
Refrain . . .
4. Thou the spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me, Whom have
I on earth Beside Thee,
Whom in Heav'n but Thee.
Refrain . . .

Leader: Beloved in the Lord, **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** So, let us humble ourselves to Him and confess to Him all our sins, regretting and repenting all that we ought to have done and not done and what we have done and should not have done. Let us repent knowing God is merciful. And in His mercy, He is ready to forgive us exactly as His promise is. In His great love he says. **“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. Review the past for me, let us argue the matter together; state the case for your innocence.”** (Isaiah 43: 25-26).

Hymn: NEARER MY GOD TO THEE (*First Stanza*)
1 Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to thee;
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

PART 2:
Confession of Sin

All: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. (Psalm: 51:1-4, 7-11).

PART 3:

Forgiveness (Absolution)

Leader: **God's promise to us is this:** "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. (2 Chronicles 7:13-15).

Because God is faithful, and He honors His promises let's receive His forgiveness by relying on his promise and believing that he has forgiven us. In the name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

All: **Amen!**

Hymn: **LBW 327 Rock of Ages Cleft for me** (*One Stanza*).

1. Rock of ages cleft for me let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood from Thy wounded side which flood
Thee of sin the double cure save from raft and make me pure.

Second Reading: Isaiah 62:11-12

CONFESSION OF FAITH (*Apostolic Creed*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON: HYMN LBW 29 Comfort, Comfort Now

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.
2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
blotting out each dark misdeed;

all that well deserved his anger
he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
into ever-springing gladness.

3. For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
bidding all men to repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that his word is never broken.

TEXT: Mark 11: 1-10

OFFERINGS: Choir sings in sequence

PART 4:

Lamentation

Hymn: **LBW 109 Go to dark Gethsemane** (*1st stanza*)
Go to dark Gethsemane, You who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see; Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Leader: **Now let us go before God and express our need,
believing that He has forgiven us; and having received
us and reconciled Himself to us, now He will hear from
heaven and heal our land and the whole world.**

Hymn: Jesus who lover of my soul me (1st stanza)
Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

a) *Pray for people of all nations affected by Corona disease so that God can restore them to health*

Prayer: Our God and our Father. You are God the Creator of all things and in your love, you created us human beings in your image and likeness. You have differentiated us from all other creatures that you have created. You have made us the crown of your creation. You have instilled in us a power that no other creature has. You have given us the ability to recognize and do your will. And through that ability we can interact, talk, listen to you talk to us, and we talk to you.

We come before You now to plead with You to hear our prayers that we bring to Your mercy seat. In Your mercy hear the prayers we bring to You when we speak in the voice You have given us, and even in silent prayer. We turn our hearts to You and forget the fear we have, so that we can rest at your feet when we speak to You.

O God, the world is in terror; people of all the nations of the earth and the, the rich and the poor are all filled with fear. Our God, a great cloud of fear has covered the whole earth. Cries and wailing are heard all over the world, because of Corona's disease. O Lord Jesus, hear our prayer and be merciful as this terrible disease has destroyed thousands of youths and old in the world.

People are mourning, weeping bitterly over the deaths that have occurred around the world since the Corona disease. Father, please be merciful to us. Good father, we ask you to heal your people who are already infected with this terrible disease. We urge you for them wherever they are, in Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere. Please extend your hand Jehovah Rapha and

heal every sick person. Restore health to Your people as You promised through the mouth of your servant Jeremiah. **"I will restore health and heal your wounds."** At Your mercy we implore you.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: Jesus lover of my soul (*2nd stanza*).

Other refuge have I none, Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, oh, leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.

b) Ask God to comfort the bereaved relatives and relatives throughout the world.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we call You Father because of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. In His name we bring all the bereaved and their loved ones into your arms. We have heard and seen in the media a man who decided to jump from high building and die after his whole family had died of the deadly corona disease. We ask you to send Your Holy Spirit to calm the bereaved, to put their hope in you and to trust in Your promises. Help us, Jesus, to hear your voice as it speaks to us, "**Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**"

O Jesus, you have loved the world, and in your great love you gave up your life and died on the cross; that all men may be saved. You said, "**I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.**"

Pull them and comfort them so they can hear your voice calling to come to you to rest as you invite people to come to you even today when you say, "**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest**" (Mat. 11:28). Let them also receive and soothe their hearts

tossed by the stormy wind and the waves of fear of Corona. As you awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still." And all heard your voice and be still. Lord Jesus, speak, and let their hearts rest. Tell their hearts to be quiet because there is nothing to hear and obey your voice (Mark 4: 35-41). **In your mercy we beseech you.**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Hym: **Jesus lover of my soul** (*3^d stanza*)

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal the sick and lead the blind.

Just and holy is Thy name, I am all unrighteousness;
Vile and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.

C) Pray for all caregivers affected by Corona disease so that God will protect them from being infected and have a loving heart.

Prayer: Our faithful God, You alone are worthy of this attribute because of your limited ability. When you created man, you made him the ruler of everything you created. By your love you have given people the gifts, knowledge and skills to use your creations to their advantage. We thank you for the doctors, nurses and all whom You have given them the knowledge and love to care for the sick. During this difficult time, they have volunteered to care for the victims of Corona.

Father, we pray that you protect and shield them from being infected because without Your protection their lives are at risk. We remember with heartfelt gratitude those who lost their lives serving Coronal patients. We ask you to calm their families and comfort them, O Lord. For those caregivers, we pray urge you to protect them, so that they can continue to do your work. Cover them as a hen covers its chicks from danger. Your work says, **"Surely, he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you."** Psalm 91:3-4, 7)

Give all ministers a courageous, loving heart, and help them not to give up because of the hard work ahead. Tighten them and hold them with your strong Hand. **In your mercy we beseech you.**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: (*4th stanza*)

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure
within.

Thou of life the fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

d) Pray God to restore health of our fellow Tanzanians infected with Corona disease.

Prayer: God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we bring our fellow Tanzanians who are in quarantine because of Corona's disease. We ask you in solitude and fear to sense your presence with them. Help them know that even in loneliness you have not left them because they are not separated from your power or your love. You are with them as You have no boundaries.

Holy God, you are the God of all with flesh and with your power and authority nothing is impossible for you. You have said, **"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"** (Jer. 32:27). And we say without a doubt, there is nothing too hard you can't do, Lord Rafa. Power, authority, glory and honor are yours, and you alone are worthy of all praise. The work of creation is much greater than repairing our bodies when they are damaged by disease. O King of kings, restore health to your people because you can. Your only Son Jesus Christ has commanded us to pray saying, **"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."** (Mat. 7:7-8)

Lord Jesus, by your word we believe you will give us bread instead of stone, fish instead of snakes and eggs instead of scorpions. And by faith we receive the gift of healing for our brethren. Lord Jesus you are the one sent by your Father, our good Father, to save us.

O compassionate Jesus, you are the persecuted Servant whom the prophet Isaiah spoke of saying, **"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."** (Isa. 53:4-5).

O Messiah, the Servant afflicted, O Wounded Healer, Jesus Christ, we pray that You heal your people. **In your mercy we beseech you.**

All: Lord, Hear our prayer

Hymn: LBW 109 (1st stanza)

e) Pray that God stops the infection and get rid of Corona disease completely (2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 91: 1 – 12).

Prayer: Almighty God, and our loving Father, we beseech You in Your Love to get rid of this dreadful disease – Corona in the whole world. We ask you to hear us for your mercy as we cry out to you. With your undeserved love and grace save our country and the rest of the world that is now experiencing recession. We beseech you, O our God, to bring us back to the time of shalom. We urge you to wipe away our tears, to bring us back to times of refreshment, times of stability and prosperity in our country and the whole world. We cry out to you as your people Israel cried for you when they were in the wilderness and you healed them from all the danger that lay before them.

We urge you to protect and eradicate Corona disease completely. Please protect us as you protected the Israelites against the ten plagues in the land of Egypt. We urge you to

eradicate this disease of Corona on the face of the earth because it has been a terrible blow to us, O King of kings. Save us, Lord, for we too have been reborn for Jesus' sake. As you saved the firstborn of your people in Egypt, save us from Corona disease. We believe that you will release your power to take away Corona's disease because You're mighty than Corona. Because you love us you will not let this disease continue to dominate and destroy us as your people. We pray that You will heal and display your strength against this disease. **In your mercy we beseech you.**

All: Lord, Hear our prayer

Hymn: LBW 533 Now thank we all our God (1st stanza)

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

f) A prayer of faith and gratitude thanking God for accepting our prayers.

Prayer: And now we thank You Lord, for hearing our prayers. In faith we place into Your loving hands the whole world and our land, Tanzania and our Evangelical Lutheran Church and the whole church around the world. We ask that you cleanse our country by your mighty hand. Sanctify us your children, and this beautiful land which, You have given us. Cleanse all animals, streams of water, trees, grass and the air that we breathe.

L: You Elohim

A: Our Creator

L: You El Shadai

A: Our Provider

L: You Adonai

A: Our Lord and Lord of all

L: You Jehovah Jireh

A: Our unlimited Provider

L: You Yahweh Shalom

A: God of Peace in its fullness grant us Your Peace that's beyond our understanding.

L: You Jehovah Makadesh

A: Sanctifying God, sanctify the world and the land of Tanzania,

L: You, Jehovah Rapha

A: God the Healer heal our land and all the nations of the world.

L: And now, O God of all these abilities we conclude our prayer by praying as Your Son Jesus Christ taught us:

Lords Prayer by Singing in Kiswahili: TMW 271

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| 1. K: Baba yetu uliye mbinguni,
W: Jina lako litukuzwe.
K: Ufalme wako uje mapenzi
yatimizwe
W: Jina lako litukuzwe. | 4. K: Usitutie kamwe majaribuni,
W: Jina lako litukuzwe.
K: Bali utuokoe kutoka uovu
W: Jina lako litukuzwe. |
| 2. K: Hapa duniani kama mbinguni,
W: Jina lako litukuzwe.
K: Utupe leo hii riziki yetu
W: Jina lako litukuzwe. | 5. K: Kwa kuwa wako ufalme, mamlaka
yote.
W: Jina lako litukuzwe.
K: Na utukufu sasa na hata milele
W: Jina lako litukuzwe. |
| 3. K: Utusamehe Baba makosa yetu,
W: Jina lako litukuzwe.
K: Kwa jinsi sisi nasi tunavyosamehe
W: Jina lako litukuzwe. | 6. K: Amini, Amin, tunakushukuru.
W: Jina lako litukuzwe.
K: Uhimidiwe Bwana we Mfalme wetu.
W: Jina lako litukuzwe. |

PART 5:

Greetings and Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with**

PART 6

Benediction

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you,

The Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace,
In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amin

All: **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Hymn: 1. We have heard the joyful sound:
Jesus saves! Spread the tidings all around:
Jesus saves! Bear the news to every land,
climb the steps and cross the waves;
onward! 'tis our Lord's command: Jesus saves!

2. Sing above the battle strife:
Jesus saves! By His death and endless life,
Jesus saves!
Sing it softly through the gloom,
when the heart for mercy craves;
sing in triumph o'er the tomb: Jesus saves!

3. Give the winds a mighty voice:
Jesus saves! Let the nations now rejoice:
Jesus saves! Shout salvation full and free;
highest hills and deepest caves; this our song of victory:
Jesus saves!